AP Literature

Reading Record Cards

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**READING RECORD CARDS**

One of the major problems confronting students taking the Advanced Placement Examinations in Literature is the Free Response question which requires that the students choose a work from their own reading experience to support their answers. One method that will help prepare you for this event is the system called Reading Record Cards. You will create a computer file in which you will record information about EVERY BOOK that you have ever read that is of literary merit, **using one-half page** (a “Reading Record Card”) for each work. Plays may be included, but not poems except for epic poems such as *The Iliad*. You will maintain the file in alphabetical order by author. You will print and use these as a flashcard review system to prepare for the AP test. These should be in your words, not those of Cliff or Spark Notes, etc. That is called plagiarism!

**Include the following on each card:**

1. **TITLE /AUTHOR (date born-date died/brief biographical background) publication date of work [original, not current edition]:**
2. **SETTING -place/time/general background:**
3. **THEME OR MAIN IDEA: [in one declarative sentence]:**
4. **Brief PLOT SYNOPSIS:**
5. **CHARACTERS [with brief descriptions] [identify Protagonist and Antagonist]:**
6. **Major SYMBOLS, Patterns of Symbols, or ALLUSIONS present:**
7. **Other LITERARY DEVICES or** **DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS OF THE WORK (3) (genre, structure, style/diction, metaphors, types of irony, etc.). Give examples of each:**
8. **SIGNIFICANT QUOTES/PASSAGES: Quotations from the work which is representative of the theme of the work as a whole, with page number(s) of source:**

Number the cards on the front in the top right corner. The top card in the stack should be a "Table of Contents" for the stack, listing all the works for which you have made cards. NOTE: "Brief" means "BRIEF": you should not use more than one-half page for each work! Minimum acceptable font size is 10 point Times. You may abbreviate, but use standard abbreviations so that you don't forget what they mean. Always save and backup before you print! **NOTE**: Submitting summaries downloaded from or based on Web sites such as *Spark Notes* or *Pink Monkey* constitutes plagiarism, which is cheating. This is NOT acceptable and will be dealt with accordingly.